

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Shinichi SUGIMOTO
Title: HORN SWITCH GEAR AND
AIRBAG SYSTEM
Appl. No.: Unassigned
Filing Date: 03/12/2004
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: Unassigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document, except as noted below, is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The USPTO has waived the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i) to submit copies of U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications when citing and submitting an Information Disclosure Statements in a patent application filed after June 30, 2003 and in an international application that has entered the national stage under 37 USC §371 after June 30, 2003. Accordingly, copies of these types of documents are not being supplied in connection with this application. Reference is being made to Pre-OG Notice from Office of Patent Legal Administration dated July 25, 2003, *Information Disclosure Statements May Be Filed Without Copies of U.S. Patents and Published Applications in Patent Applications filed after June 30, 2003*.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the filing date of the application.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

An English translation of the foreign-language documents is not readily available. However, the absence of such translation does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted foreign language documents (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609). English language abstracts are attached.

Applicant respectfully requests that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: March 12, 2004

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP

Customer Number: 22428

Telephone: (202) 672-5490

Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

By 
 Michael D. Kaminski *Reg No 35,264*
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 32,904

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: March 12, 2004 <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	Unassigned
				Filing Date	03/12/2004
				First Named Inventor	Shinichi SUGIMOTO
				Group Art Unit	Unassigned
				Examiner Name	Unassigned
				Attorney Docket Number	086142-0657
Sheet	1	of	1		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A1	6,062,592		Sakurai et al.	05-16-2000	
	A2	6,139,051		Fujita	10-31-2000	
	A3	2002/0113419	A1	Kai et al.	08-22-2002	
	A4	6,508,485	B2	Kikuta et al.	01-21-2003	
	A5	2003/0151236	A1	Xu et al.	08-14-2003	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	A6	JP	10-100832	A	Sensor Technol KK	04-21-1998		Abst.
	A7	EP	1 099 604	A2	Gallino Plasturgia S.r.L.	05-16-2001		
	A8	JP	9-30425	A	Toyoda Gosei Co Ltd	02-04-1997		Abst.
	A9	JP	2001-278060	A	Nippon Plast Co Ltd	10-10-2001		Abst.
	A10	JP	11-278280	A	Nippon Plast Co Ltd	10-12-1999		Abst.
	A11	JP	2001-213326	A	Nippon Plast Co Ltd	08-07-2001		Abst.
	A12	JP	2001-187576	A	T S Tec KK	07-10-2001		Abst.
	A13	JP	2001-277976	A	Nippon Plast Co Ltd	10-10-2001		Abst.
	A14	JP	2001-233159	A	Tokai Rika Co Ltd	08-28-2001		
	A15	JP	2001-199300	A	Hosei Brake Ind Ltd; Toyo Tire & Rubber Co	07-24-2001		Abst.
	A16	JP	2000-211528	A	Toyoda Gosei Co Ltd	08-02-2000		Abst.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
--------------------	-----------------

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.